

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SANTIA 06413 050000Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-02 /063 W

-----096749 051218Z /53

R 042107Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5953

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 6413

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV CI US

SUBJ: TODMAN VISIT: PUBLIC "CLARIFICATIONS" OF US/CHILE POLICY

1. PRESS PLAY ON NUMEROUS STATEMENTS IN WASHINGTON AND SANTIAGO "CLARIFYING" THE USG POSITION REGARDING PRESIDENT PINOCHET'S TRANSITION PLAN AND THE CURRENT HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN CHILE DROPPED OFF THE FRONT PAGES THE EVENING OF AUGUST 3. BY AUGUST 4 ONLY THE GOC-OWNED "EL CRONISTA" CONINUED COVERAGE BY CARRYING ON INSIDE PAGES UPI'S AUGUST 3 DISPATCH FROM WASHINGTON WHICH SORTED OUT THE VARIOUS DECLARATIONS IN WASHINGTON AND SANTIAGO, AND QUOTED STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS IN SUPPORT OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN AND CHARGE BOYATT.

2. IN THE ONLY EDITORIAL TO DATE, "EL MERCURIO" ON AUGUST 4 SAID USG EXPLANATIONS DEMONSTRATED A CONTINUED LACK OF CLARITY IN CARTER'S HUMAN RIGHTS OBJECTIVES, BUT AT LEAST SHOWED THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT ACKNOWLEDGED IMPROVEMENTS IN THE CHILEAN SCENE.

3. COMMENT: SENIOR GOC OFFICIALS HAVE OVERCOME THEIR INITIAL ANGER AT THE LEAKS, BACKGROUNDING AND STATEMENTS COMING OUT OF WASHINGTON AND SEEN THE WISDOM OF BREAKING OFF THE DECLARATION/COUNTER-DECLARATION CYCLE. THE  
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GOVERNMENT, AS WELL AS TOP CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS, SEE THE TODMAN VISIT COMING AT AN IMPORTANT TIME IN THE EVOLVING CHILEAN SITUATION. WE JUDGE THAT NEITHER SIDE WANTS ITS INTERESTS JEOPARDIZED BY FURTHER INTERJECTION OF CONFUSING THE CONTRADICTORY STATEMENTS ON THE EVE OF AMBASSADOR TODMAN'S VISIT.  
BOYATT

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009